



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

October 25, 2005

Contact: Patrick Lacefield 204-777-7939 or Jean Arthur 204-777-7934

COUNCIL MOVES TO COORDINATE ACQUISITION AND TRAINING FOR DEFIBRILLATORS IN COUNTY FACILITIES

The Montgomery County Council has approved a coordinated approach to encourage the placement and use of defibrillators in County buildings.

Last November 16, the Council unanimously approved legislation sponsored by Councilmember Marilyn Praisner that required registered health clubs in the County to have at least one defibrillator on hand, and at least one staff member trained to operate it.

The automated external defibrillators, or AEDs, can administer a mild shock to victims of sudden cardiac arrest to keep the heart pumping until trained emergency personnel arrive.

The Council also ensured that all County Recreation Centers are equipped with AEDs.

"County residents, especially those over 55 years of age, who exercise strenuously are at particular risk of sudden cardiac arrest," said Councilmember Marilyn Praisner, who has led the Council effort on the issue. "Less than 10 percent of people who suffer cardiac arrest outside a hospital survive – and their chances get worse every moment that defibrillation is delayed.

"This common-sense measure can save lives. AEDs are easily used. Many use voice prompts to direct rescuers, monitor heart rhythms, and administer shocks only as necessary.

"As we look to place AEDS in other County buildings, we need a coordinated approach to ensure uniform policies, standardized equipment, and quality training. We are encouraging the County Executive to designate the Department of Fire and Rescue Services as the lead agency."

###

N
E
W
S

R
E
L
E
A
S
E

